

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2009

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 609**

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**Introduced by Senator Hollingsworth**

February 27, 2009

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An act to amend Section 653o of the Penal Code, relating to crimes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 609, as amended, Hollingsworth. Importation of crocodile and alligator parts.

Existing law, *that becomes operative on January 1, 2010*, makes it a crime to import into California for commercial purposes, to possess with intent to sell, or to sell any part or product of the dead body of a crocodile or alligator.

~~This bill would delete the above crime, thereby making it legal to engage in those acts relating to the importation into California of crocodile and alligator parts.~~ *instead provide that this provision become operative on January 1, 2015. The bill would specify that it shall not be construed to authorize the importation or sale of any alligator or crocodilian species, or any products thereof, that is listed as endangered or that would be in violation of any federal law or international treaty, as specified.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 653o of the Penal Code, as amended by
- 2 Section 1 of Chapter 576 of the Statutes of 2007, is amended to
- 3 read:

653o. (a) It is unlawful to import into this state for commercial purposes, to possess with intent to sell, or to sell within the state, the dead body, or any part or product thereof, of any polar bear, leopard, ocelot, tiger, cheetah, jaguar, sable antelope, wolf (*Canis lupus*), zebra, whale, cobra, python, sea turtle, colobus monkey, kangaroo, vicuna, sea otter, free-roaming feral horse, dolphin or porpoise (*Delphinidae*), Spanish lynx, or elephant.

(b) (1) *Commencing January 1, 2015, it shall be unlawful to import into this state for commercial purposes, to possess with intent to sell, or to sell within the state, the dead body, or any part or product thereof, of any crocodile or alligator.*

(2) *This subdivision shall not be construed to authorize the importation or sale of any alligator or crocodilian species, or any products thereof, that are listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, or to allow the importation or sale of any alligator or crocodilian species, or any products thereof, in violation of any federal law or any international treaty to which the United States is a party.*

~~(b)~~

(c) (1) This section shall not apply to kangaroos that may be harvested lawfully under Australian national and state law, the federal Endangered Species Act of 1971 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.), and applicable international conventions, provided that the Department of Fish and Game is annually informed by the Australian government that the commercial harvest of kangaroos in any future year will not exceed the official quota established for 2007 or the lawful take of kangaroos in each subsequent year, whichever is the lesser.

(2) If the department fails to receive the report described in paragraph (1), the department shall inform the Australian national government that future importation of kangaroos that otherwise may be harvested lawfully under Australian national and state law, the federal Endangered Species Act of 1971 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.), and applicable international conventions shall be halted and their importation into this state for commercial purposes, possession with intent to sell, or sale within the state will be subject to the provisions of this section.

~~(e)~~

(d) Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not less

than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months, or both fine and imprisonment, for each violation.

~~(d)~~

(e) The prohibitions against importation for commercial purposes, possession with intent to sell, and sale of the species listed in this section are severable. A finding of the invalidity of any one or more prohibitions shall not affect the validity of any remaining prohibitions.

~~(e)~~

(f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2011, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2011, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. Section 653o of the Penal Code, as added by Section 2 of Chapter 576 of the Statutes of 2007, is amended to read:

653o. (a) It is unlawful to import into this state for commercial purposes, to possess with intent to sell, or to sell within the state, the dead body, or any part or product thereof, of any polar bear, leopard, ocelot, tiger, cheetah, jaguar, sable antelope, wolf (*Canis lupus*), zebra, whale, cobra, python, sea turtle, colobus monkey, kangaroo, vicuna, sea otter, free-roaming feral horse, dolphin or porpoise (*Delphinidae*), Spanish lynx, or elephant.

(b) (1) *Commencing January 1, 2015, it shall be unlawful to import into this state for commercial purposes, to possess with intent to sell, or to sell within the state, the dead body, or any part or product thereof, of any crocodile or alligator.*

(2) *This subdivision shall not be construed to authorize the importation or sale of any alligator or crocodilian species, or any products thereof, that are listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, or to allow the importation or sale of any alligator or crocodilian species, or any products thereof, in violation of any federal law or any international treaty to which the United States is a party.*

~~(b)~~

(c) Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months, or both the fine and imprisonment, for each violation.

~~(e)~~

1    (d) The prohibitions against importation for commercial  
2 purposes, possession with intent to sell, and sale of the species  
3 listed in this section are severable. A finding of the invalidity of  
4 any one or more prohibitions shall not affect the validity of any  
5 remaining prohibitions.

6    ~~(d)~~

7    (e) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2011.